Drugs network in the country

2323. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of heroine seized by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) since January, 2001;

(b) whether Government are aware of the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 2nd November, 2001 that DRI has busted a drug network having links with Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details of seizures and arrests made in this regard; and

(d) the efforts made by Government to prevent smuggling of drugs into the country from Pakistan and other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE : (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) 170.97 kgs. of heroin valued at Rs. 5.40 crores have been seized by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence since January, 2001 (upto November, 2001).

(b) and (c) No such news-item has appeared in the Indian Express dated 2nd November, 2001. However, seizure of 15 kgs. of heroin smuggled from Pakistan valued at Rs. 48.75 lakhs has been made by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence on 25-10-2001. 2 Indians have been arrested in this connection.

(d) All field formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant and continuous and concerted efforts to develop operational intelligence are being made by them to prevent smuggling of contraband goods including narcotic drugs into the country from other countries including Pakistan.

Financial package to Himachal Pradesh

2324. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to grant financial package to Himachal Pradesh on the pattern of North East;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be granted; and

(c) if not, what are the constraints coming in the way of Government in doing so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE : (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) There is no plan under consideration of the Government to grant a financial package to Himachal Pradesh on the pattern